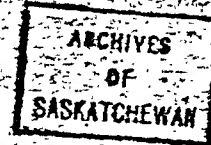


*Liberal Party (Sask.)*  
*#66*  
Scott  
Papers

# THE SUPPLEMENTARY REVENUE ACT.

Its Successful Operation  
\$145,000 for Rural Schools.



## FACTS VS. MISREPRESENTATIONS

"THE PROOF OF THE PUDDING IS IN THE  
EATING THEREOF."

## FACTS VS. MISREPRESENTATIONS.

### Political Clap-trap vs. Hard Cash.

The Supplementary Revenue Act has been in force a little over one year. Today nearly a thousand rural school districts are reaping the benefit. Notwithstanding the fact that last year was one of the poorest in the history of the West for the collection of taxes the Supplementary Revenue Fund available this year for our educational institutions amounted to the magnificent sum of \$150,000. The whole of this large amount has been distributed in support of education. The Government has not used one cent for any other purpose. The treasurers of rural school districts were paid in hard cash no less than \$144,588.68. As a result thereof taxes this year should be decreased by an equal amount. Besides they received their cheques at a time when it was impossible to get money from any other source. It has been said that "money talks." Surely this is the case with the Supplementary Revenue Act. The air has been full of political clap-trap for months but it is now cleared. The actual results of the working of the Act are known and every person who is not blinded politically recognizes the fact that the purpose of the Act is sound and that in future years far greater benefits will flow from it.

### Tory Dust Throwers.

Of all the laws passed by the Saskatchewan Legislature during the last three years none has been so wilfully and persistently misrepresented by the Haultain party and the Tory press throughout the Province as this Supplementary Revenue Act. In season and out of season the opposition members in the Assembly and their rabble camp followers have been vainly endeavouring to throw dust in the eyes of the electors. They declare that the Act is unconstitutional; they shout about direct taxation; they weep over the poor farmer who (they say) is compelled to build a university; they refuse to pay their taxes and one member of the Legislature (Dr. Ellis of Moosomin) dared the Government to attempt to force him to pay; they raise a howl and cry in chorus that the farmers of Saskatchewan are paying for the town and village schools; in fact in a hundred different ways they have raised false cries and deliberately and maliciously misrepresented facts. Now, however, since the Act has been in operation and the farmers of Saskatchewan clearly understand its objects and see in the hands of the treasurers of their school districts the actual cash which has been paid not only by themselves but by thousands upon thousands of land grabbers, speculators and corporations they recognize the fact that in placing this Act on our statute books the Scott Government was acting in the best interests of the Province and in the interests of our pioneer farmers who have had a heavy burden to bear in supporting and maintaining their rural schools.

"The Government has been compelled to resort to direct taxation. It is already bankrupt. The financial bargain made with Ottawa when the Province was established was so inadequate that it is at this early date compelled to tax the people to get money enough to run the country. I told you this in 1905. I was sure it would come. I, the great Frederick William Gordon Haultain, spoke and when I speak you should believe." So sings Haultain and Sam Moore and Organizer McDonald and the Gospel Sheet of the Tory party, the Regina Standard—and every Conservative big and little throughout the length and breadth of the Province joins in the chorus and with all the lung power available roll out those awful words *direct taxation*. Could anything be more nonsensical? Have Haultain and his party not yet learned that our intelligent people cannot be hoodwinked by such utter rot? But of course everybody knows Mr. Haultain is not responsible for what he says "politically." At the recent session of the Assembly he said "I never make a charge I cannot prove." The political history of Saskatchewan and his own record in the Legislature go to show that he deliberately and maliciously makes all kinds of charges and insinuations that he never even attempts to prove. When a man holding the responsible position of Leader of the Opposition goes out of his way to state facts which are not facts somebody should tell him that if he ever expects to gain the support of the electors of Saskatchewan he must mend his ways. There is such a thing as honesty and decency in political life as well as in private life—but some people fail to recognize it. Probably when the great Frederick has gained sufficient moral courage to seek his political inspiration and advice from some other source than J. K. McInnis, Sam Moore and a few other such political aspirants the people of Saskatchewan will be able to place a little faith in his utterances on public questions.

The "direct taxation" cry is merely an election bugaboo. What are the facts? At the time the Supplementary Revenue Act was passed the Government had on hand in cold cash in the bank a surplus which had been carried forward from the previous year of \$482,280.14. This year the surplus over last year's actual expenditure amounted to no less than \$328,788.08. Haultain's talk about the Government being hard up is pure moonshine. The Government has not had to borrow one dollar or pay one cent of interest. It has been able to meet out of its revenues not only all current expenditures but all expenditures on large steel bridges, public buildings and other permanent improvements as well. As a matter of fact the splendid bargain made by Saskatchewan with the Dominion is the envy of all the other provinces of Canada. Today the Government and the people of Manitoba are unanimously clamoring for and demanding exactly the same bargain. Premier Roblin asserts most positively that Manitoba does not want the millions of acres of land to be added to the province but he and the people insist upon being treated financially on an equality with Saskatchewan.

Stop and think just a minute! Who gets the Supplementary Revenue tax? Does the Government get it? Is it used to swell the Provincial revenue? Does the Government spend it? Why everybody knows

that these taxes are kept in a separate trust fund and that they are paid out directly and almost entirely to our rural school districts. Besides as everybody knows every school district in the Province continues to receive the ordinary grants which they have always been paid. These grants have not been cut down one cent. So far then as the Supplementary Revenue Act is concerned the Government was not compelled on account of any shortage of funds to resort to taxation. If the Act had never been passed at all the Government would be in exactly the same position financially as it is today. The Government derives absolutely no financial benefit from the Act. No, but our rural school districts do—and the people of those districts have found this out because they now have the cash on hand.

Talk about direct taxation! Who placed the first direct tax on the people of the Province? Of course some people would throw up their hands in horror if it were suggested that Mr. F. W. G. Haultain was the individual. Well he was. Years ago he taxed all rural lands for road improvements. Why he even taxed leased grazing lands—not one cent per acre but  $1\frac{1}{4}$  cents per acre. But of course there are people who imagine that anything Haultain does or did is alright. Poor souls! A general road tax is a good thing but the education of our boys and girls is of no consequence. What do you think? Do you think it is right and proper that thousands upon thousands of non-residents, speculators and large land corporations should be exempt from paying their share—their just share—of the cost of the education of our children? The proper education of the future citizens of Saskatchewan is the greatest and most important work the Province can perform and any person who is so small and so mean and so lacking in a knowledge of his duties as a citizen as to refuse to contribute his small portion towards maintaining our rural schools had better transplant himself to the wilds of barbarous Africa.

### The Real Reason for Passing the Act.

No, the Government was not hard up. The Provincial treasury was and is full. Why then was the Act passed? This is a plain question and one that is easily answered. In the first place it was not passed to make the farmers pay for a university, an agricultural college and high schools. Talk of this kind is both cheap and foundationless. The small fraction of the taxes paid to these institutions comes not from the actual settlers but from the land speculator and non-resident. Why then was the Act passed? The reason must be apparent to everybody who really wishes to know. Its chief object is to tax for educational purposes millions of acres of land that were exempt from taxation. Why should these lands be free? The farmers who live in Saskatchewan and who through privations and hard labor day by day improve the value of unoccupied land have all along been paying the piper. The Government decided that this should cease and that all property owners should be compelled to assist our rural population to support their schools. This is the reason and the only reason why the Act was passed.

### Another Falsehood Nailed.

But the Tory band raised another hue and cry. Just listen to them shout! You will hear them on every street corner and from every platform. They will acclaim that towns and villages are not taxed and that the farmers are discriminated against. One would think from the noise they make that our towns and villages were not only exempt from taxation but that they are receiving the lion's share of the Supplementary Revenue fund. Nothing could be further from the truth. Let us look at the actual facts. Facts and figures count, not talk. Well there are in the Province 132 cities, towns and villages. It is true that they are not taxed under the Supplementary Revenue Act, but on the other hand they receive no benefit. They pay nothing and get nothing and just how this constitutes a discrimination against the farmers of the Province is difficult to understand. Yes, there are grants to be paid out of the fund to High Schools but not to town and village public schools. The High Schools are public institutions open to all the children of the Province. More than that the Scott Government has made them free to the sons and daughters of our farmers. Under the old Haultain law every farmer who wished his boy to get a better education than the country school could afford was compelled to pay \$21 per year to our High School board. This rank injustice has been done away with. But you ask what share of the Supplementary Revenue fund do our High Schools receive? In the year 1907 there were only four of them that earned the grant and they were paid a total amount of \$1,862. In other words out of the Supplementary revenue fund which amounted to \$150,000 this year the only grants which were paid to all our city, town and village districts were those paid to High Schools amounting all told to \$1,862 or a little over 1 per cent. As can very easily be seen the small amount is not paid by the farmer at all but comes out of the taxes paid by non-residents. When therefore the Tory orator begins to roll his eyes and pull his hair out shouting about the farmers of Saskatchewan paying for town schools just wink your eye and mildly hint that you know better.

### A Knockout Blow.

Not satisfied with their general campaign of falsehood and slander Haultain's camp followers endeavored to stampede the Local Improvement District Convention which assembled this year in Regina. Two or three hundred intelligent farmers representing all parts of the Province had gathered together to discuss matters of local concern. During their discussions Tory politicians were put up time and time again to denounce the Supplementary Revenue Act but in every instance they were turned down cold. The attack was renewed on various occasions but the good sound common sense of the great majority of the delegates prevailed and the Tory disturbers were forced to go away back and sit down. The whole scheme which was notoriously known to have been hatched in the Opposition headquarters at Regina fizzled out simply because the intelligent farmers who were present were not to be tricked and hoodwinked by a lot of silly twaddle. They had made for themselves a careful study of the Act, recognized its chief

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purpose and its benefits and so once for all dealt a knockout blow to the misguided tools who were put up by the Tory machine to throw dust in their eyes.

### Why Tax Lands in School Districts?

The answer is quite simple and can be easily understood by any person who is willing to understand. As everyone knows new school districts are being formed all the time. Besides the boundaries of school districts are frequently changed. If all the lands were not taxed the assessor would never know where he was at. If he assessed only lands outside of school districts there would be sure to be a muddle. To avoid all complications and omissions and to make the assessment and collection of the taxes uniform and simple it was thought best to assess all lands. Under this plan there can be no mistakes and the net result is the same to every particular school district. In every instance if the school is kept open 60 days it is bound to receive back not only the taxes which it pays but a great deal more as well. This stands to reason and is easily explainable because it receives its share of the taxes collected on lands outside of school districts. And as there is nearly twice as much land outside of school districts as there is within it will be seen that the extra amount which school districts receive should be very considerable.

### Some Interesting Facts and Figures.

The returns received by the Treasury Department from Local Improvement Districts show that there were about 30,400,000 acres of land in the Province assessable under The Supplementary Revenue Act. As the rate of taxation is 1c. per acre the tax levied and collectable for the year 1907 amounted to in round figures \$304,000. As required by the Act the Supplementary Revenue fund was closed and balanced on January 15th, 1908. At that time only 189 out of 331 small districts and 15 large districts had sent in the taxes collected, amounting all told to \$86,439.35. Since January 15th of this year there has been forwarded to the Government an additional amount of \$51,839.13, making the total collection on account of last year's taxes no less than \$138,278.48. It may also be added that returns have been received from all of the local improvement districts except 24.

As it was fully expected that only a portion of the first year's taxes would be collected provision was put in the Act whereby the Government if it found it advisable could advance to the fund any amount up to \$75,000 to be repaid of course when arrears of taxes were collected. Acting under this clause an advance of \$65,000 was made making the total amount available for distribution on 15th of January \$86,439.35 and \$65,000 or a total of \$151,439.35, out of which was paid for cost of collection \$1,999.89, leaving \$149,439.46 to be paid in grants to our educational institutions.

Of the advance of \$65,000 made by the Government out of Provincial revenues no less than \$51,839.13 has been repaid and no doubt the balance will be wiped out shortly.

The following summary will probably set forth more clearly the exact standing of the Supplementary Revenue fund:



Total acreage of assessable lands in Province.....	30,400,000
Total taxes due at 1c. per acre.....	\$304,000.00
Total taxes collected for the year 1907.....	138,278.08
Arrears of taxes for 1907.....	165,722.00
Taxes paid prior to January 15, 1908.....	\$86,439.35
Amount advanced by Government.....	65,000.00
Amount paid for collection expenses.....	1,999.89
Amount available for distribution as grants.....	\$149,439.46
Amount advanced by Government.....	\$65,000.00
Taxes collected since.....	51,839.13
Balance due the Government.....	\$13,160.87
Arrears of taxes outstanding for 1907.....	\$165,722.00
Amount due the Government.....	13,160.87
Arrears due the Supplementary Revenue Fund.....	\$152,561.12

### Distribution of the Fund.

Under the authority vested in it by this Act the Government by Order in Council arranged for the distribution of the fund as follows:

(1) To the University of Saskatchewan two per cent. of the amount available, viz.: \$149,439.46.....	\$ 2,988.78
(2) To High School Districts the amount which they actually earned as prescribed by the Act.....	1,862.00
(3) To fifty rural school districts that were not kept open the 60 days required by the Act.....	2,500.00
(4) To new rural school districts organized during the year 1907.....	7,103.60
(5) To each of 932 rural school districts whose schools were open at least 60 days, \$120 each.....	111,840.00
(6) The balance was divided among all rural schools in proportion to the days they were open.....	23,145.08
	<u>\$149,439.46</u>

These figures show that the total grants paid to High Schools and the University amounted to only \$4,850.78 or about 3.2 per cent. of the total amount. On the other hand the rural schools of the province were paid \$144,588.68, or nearly 97 per cent. of the fund.

### Watch Next Year.

The Supplementary Revenue Act is now going with a swing. Reports received from all over the province clearly prove that the great majority of our rural population understand its purpose and its benefits. Last year the treasurers of local improvement districts had many difficulties to contend against but they did nobly in the face of very adverse circumstances. The taxes actually collected amounted only to 45 per cent. of the levy. This year it will be surprising indeed if the receipts fall short of 70 per cent. There is now due to the fund over \$400,000 and there is every reason to believe that early in 1909 upwards of \$300,000 will be collected. If this year with only some \$86,000 collected by January 15th the Government could pay to our rural school districts grants ranging from \$125 to \$152 each what should be expected next year if the taxes paid amount to \$300,000? Every rural district in the province should receive from \$200 to \$300 and in many cases even more.

# Typical Examples Showing Taxes Collected and Grants Paid for 1907.

## Local Improvement District 9-E-2.

Number of acres of land assessed.....	84,442	
Taxes levied at one cent per acre.....	\$844.42	
Taxes paid to Government.....		\$380.19
Grants paid to school districts wholly or partly within L.I.D.		
Wholly within—		
Ernccliffe.....	\$151.50	
Poplar Grove.....	151.50	
Mount Crescent.....	151.42	
Ellisboro.....	149.40	\$603.82
Partly within—		
School districts numbered, 28, 347, 366, 689 and 846 which were paid grants amounting to.....		\$733.19
Total grants paid.....		\$1,337.01

## Local Improvement District 9-T-2.

Number of acres of land assessed.....	91,520	
Taxes levied at one cent per acre.....	\$915.20	
Taxes paid to Government.....		\$493.35
Grants paid to school districts wholly or partly within L.I.D.		
Wholly within—		
Marlborough.....	\$140.25	
Carmel.....	148.05	
Postville.....	150.90	
Pioneer.....	150.90	\$590.10
Partly within—		
School districts numbered 256, 273, 498, 507 and 614 which were paid grants amounting to.....		\$722.85
Total grants paid.....		\$1,312.95

## Local Improvement District 14-B-2.

Number of acres of land assessed.....	76,357	
Taxes levied at one cent per acre.....	\$763.57	
Taxes paid to Government.....		\$288.22
Grants paid to school districts wholly or partly within L.I.D.		
Wholly within—		
Ebenezer.....	\$149.40	
Meno.....	142.57	
Langenan.....	135.00	
Mennonfeldt.....	142.05	\$568.02
Partly within—		
School districts numbered 247, 420, 715 and 1559 which were paid grants amounting to.....		\$584.12
Total grants paid.....		\$1,152.14

## Local Improvement District 13-C-2.

Number of acres of land assessed.....	76,357	
Taxes levied at one cent per acre.....	\$763.57	
Taxes paid to Government.....		\$200.89



Grants paid to school districts wholly or partly within L.I.D.

Wholly within—

Look Out	\$135.75	
Phone Hill	143.70	\$279.45

Partly within—

School districts numbered 97, 265, 374 and 681 which were paid grants amounting to		\$553.80
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Total grants paid		\$833.25
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Local Improvement District 9-D-2.

Number of acres of land assessed	unknown	
Taxes levied at one cent per acre	unknown	
Taxes paid to Government		\$387.27

Grants paid to school districts wholly or partly within L.I.D.

Wholly within—

Tetlock	\$151.50	
Sims	143.32	
Gittel—not open		
McPherson	150.15	
Weldon	161.50	\$596.47

Partly within—

School districts numbered 53, 149 and 366 which were paid grants amounting to		\$441.52
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Total grants paid		\$1,037.99
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Local Improvement District 19-C-3.

Number of acres of land assessed	113.067	
Taxes levied at one cent per acre	\$1,130.67	
Taxes paid to Government		\$472.83

Grants paid to school districts wholly or partly within L.I.D.

Wholly within—

Brownell	\$137.02	
Wurnzberg	145.20	
Garfield	146.55	
Newhoffnung	137.85	
Edyell	132.90	\$699.52

Partly within—

School districts numbered 430, 682, 1002, 1340, 1681 and 1751 which were paid grants amounting to		\$666.85
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Total grants paid		\$1,366.37
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Local Improvement District 7-A-1.

Number of acres of land assessed	No assessment made	
Taxes levied	none	
Taxes paid to Government		none

Grants paid to school districts wholly or partly within L.I.D.

Wholly within—

Little Bluff	\$145.42	
Elgin	149.85	
Stanley	149.70	\$444.97

Partly within—

School districts numbered 221, 215, 493 and 1040 which were paid grants amounting to		\$579.45
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Total grants paid		\$1,024.42
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### Local Improvement District 9-R-2.

Number of acres of land assessed.....	No assessment made
Taxes levied .....	
Taxes paid to Government.....	none

#### Grants paid to school districts wholly or partly within L.I.D.

##### Wholly within—

Dewdney .....	\$151.35	
Dundonald .....	145.72	
Rose Park .....	151.50	
Wayside .....	148.85	
Cottonwood .....	150.75	
Burceville .....	148.50	
Fairville .....	151.50	\$1,047.67

##### Partly within—

School districts numbered 29, 64, 188, 604 and 1027 which were paid grants amounting to.....	\$723.10
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Total grants paid.....	\$1,780.77
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### Local Improvement District 22-S-2.

Number of acres of land assessed.....	55,911
Taxes levied at one cent per acre.....	\$559.11
Taxes paid to Government.....	\$376.26

#### Grants paid to school districts wholly or partly within L.I.D.

##### Wholly within—

Birch Hills .....	\$151.50	
Harper View .....	149.17	
Derby .....	151.50	
Tiger Hill .....	150.52	\$602.69

##### Partly within—

School district number 1257 was paid a grant amount- ing to .....	\$143.70
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Total grants paid.....	\$746.39
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### Local Improvement District 8-A-1.

Number of acres of land assessed.....	82,400
Taxes levied at one cent per acre.....	\$824.00
Taxes paid to Government.....	\$469.00

#### Grants paid to school districts wholly or partly within L.I.D.

##### Wholly within—

Welwyn .....	\$141.45	
Orangeville .....	149.25	
Cambridge .....	149.02	
Callmount .....	146.85	
Woodbine .....	151.50	\$738.07

##### Partly within—

School districts numbered 22, 43, 295, 713 and 932 which were paid grants amounting to.....	\$580.19
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Total grants paid.....	\$1,318.26
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### Summary of Examples Given.

Local Improvement District	Tax paid to Government	Grants paid to S.D. wholly within L.I.D.	Grants paid to S.D. partly within L.I.D.
9-B-2	\$380.19	\$608.82	\$738.19
9-T-2	498.85	590.10	722.85
14-B-2	288.22	568.02	584.12
13-C-2	200.89	279.45	553.80
9-D-2	387.27	596.47	441.52
19-C-2	472.83	699.52	666.85
7-A-1		444.97	579.45
9-R-2		1,047.67	733.10
22-S-2	376.26	602.69	143.70
8-A-1	469.00	738.07	580.19
	<b>\$3,068.01</b>	<b>\$6,170.78</b>	<b>\$5,738.77</b>

These figures speak for themselves. What do they show? In these ten local improvement districts the total taxes collected and paid into the Supplementary Revenue fund amounted all told to \$3,068.01. But what did the school districts get back? Look at the figures. In the case of those school districts which were situated entirely within the L.I. Districts named they were paid in cash no less than \$6,170.78. But this is not the whole story. Other school districts which were partly included in these same local improvement districts were sent cheques totalling \$5,738.77. Where did all the extra money come from? That is the question to ask. Did it not come from lands that heretofore had not paid one cent towards the cost of education? Assuredly it did—yes and the speculator, big and little, the non-resident, the large land companies and corporations paid their share. Today the pioneers of the Province and the ratepayers of our rural schools are reaping the benefit.

It has been said that The Supplementary Revenue Act is one of the wisest Acts passed by the Scott Government. Today this is fully recognized by all who are not blinded by political prejudice. The time has gone by when Haultain and the Tory press can fool the people. The farmers of Saskatchewan now know for themselves that the Act was conceived in their interests and that in its actual working out the benefits derived are theirs.